



# MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE HONORS PROGRAM





# HONORS PROGRAM

# PROGRAM BENEFITS

The MVC Honors Program is designed for high-achieving students in all majors who want to get the most out of their education. The program is reserved for exceptional students who demonstrate intelligence, accountability, and initiative in fulfilling requirements beyond those asked of others. Honors courses develop students' ability to learn and think independently; sharpen their analytical, research and discussion skills; and develop their writing. Participation in the Honors Program enhances day-to-day academic and social life. It also adds distinction to degrees and helps students stand out from the crowd. Graduate and professional schools and prospective employers pay attention to such marks of excellence.

- Priority housing (beginning sophomore year)
- Priority class registration
- Scholarship for study abroad
- Extended library check-out times
- Guest speakers
- Graduation honors
- Professionalization
- Supportive cohort of motivated colleagues
- Additional printing funds

Honors students attend the True/False Film Festival in Columbia, Mo



Graduating from the Honors Program adds distinction to your degree!



For more info go to [moval.edu/academics/honors-program/](http://moval.edu/academics/honors-program/)

## THE FULL 4 - YEAR PROGRAM

The Honors Program curriculum includes an introduction to critical reading and writing, five writing intensive interdisciplinary seminars, faculty guidance for a research proposal, and an Honors thesis.

**1 credit of Honors 100:** the introduction to Honors. This course teaches students approaches to critical thinking and writing in preparation for Honors Seminars.

**15 credits of Honors Seminars:** a series of five Writing Intensive, interdisciplinary classes in which students read primary texts. **6 credits** of foreign language, study abroad, or contract course in an approved multicultural themed course.

**6 credits of contract classes:** within their major students will choose two courses (junior or senior level) to complete additional work under "contract" with the faculty member.

**1 credit of Honors 400:** students work independently with a faculty member in their major to develop and write a proposal for an Honors Thesis.

**1 credit of HN485-Honors Thesis:** in conjunction with the Senior Seminar/Thesis in their major, Honors students produce a thesis of publishable quality and formally present it to the campus community.

## TWO-YEAR HONORS PROGRAM FOR AA-TRANSFER/JUNIOR START:

**1 credit of Honors 300**

**6 credits of Honors seminars of the student's choice**

**6 credits of foreign language, study abroad, or in an approved multicultural themed course.**

**6 credits of contract classes**

**1 credit of Honors 400: Thesis Research**

**1 credit of Honors 485: Honors Thesis**

## ADMISSION

**First Year Students** - In addition to applying for admission to MVC, students must submit the online application form and write a personal statement explaining why they are interested in the Honors Program. Students should also have a minimum ACT score of 24 or combined Critical Reading and Math SAT score of 1090. Students can petition the Honors Program Director for provisional admission if minimum scores are not reached.

**Transfer and Current Students** - Current MVC students or students transferring with an Associate of Arts degree with a GPA of 3.5 or above at any accredited college or university are also invited to apply for admission into a 2-year abbreviated version of Missouri Valley Honors. Students must submit the online application form and a personal statement explaining their interest in the Honors Program. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

All students interested in applying for the Honors Program should submit a 300-400 word personal statement explaining their interest in the Honors Program. And fill out the Honors Program Application found at [moval.edu/academics/honors-program/](http://moval.edu/academics/honors-program/). Statements should be submitted by email to Honors Program Director at [honors@moval.edu](mailto:honors@moval.edu).

Questions about the program can be sent to the Honors Program Director at [honors@moval.edu](mailto:honors@moval.edu)

## SEMINARS \*FULFILL 15 HOURS OF GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

### HN 190 Humanity and Stories

How do stories teach us how to be human and how do they shape the world around us? This course investigates enduring questions of global human concern through literature, art, folklore, drama, and music. Topics addressed may include gender, race, leadership, divinity, monstrosity, violence, and love through primary texts and individual research projects.

### HN 290 Humanity and Science

How do we know what we know about the physical world? How do numbers work? What is science? Drawing on relevant scientific concepts and methodologies, this course examines issues that emerge at the intersection of humanity's engagement with, and relation to, the natural world, through primary texts and individual projects.

### HN 390 Humanity and Society

What is freedom? What is punishment? How and why do humans create, maintain, and undermine society? Topics addressed may include the self, human nature, freedom, and society through primary texts in psychology, sociology, economics, law, and history, and individual research projects.

### HN 291 Humanity and Creativity

What is good? What is beautiful? What is creativity? This course investigates questions about the interconnectedness of the social, political, economic, physical, and religious environment as related to the fine art disciplines of dance, music, theatre, and visual arts through primary texts and individual projects that combine research and creative work.

### HN 490 Humanity and Moral Responsibility

Utilizing concepts and frameworks drawn from religious and/or philosophical approaches to ethics, this course examines the nature of human moral responsibility with regard to one or more contemporary issues through primary texts and individual research projects. Possible topics to be addressed may include but are not limited to, the ethics of healthcare systems, climate change, criminal justice/the death penalty, and economic justice. Spring.

### HN 301 Honors Field Learning

This field course offers hands-on research and/or service learning opportunities. Topics vary per instructor and term. Students engage in data collection, problem-solving, and research writing.

### LOREN C. GRUBER HONORS AWARD

This \$500 award is given annually to a student in good academic standing who has completed an Honors Program thesis. Jurors will choose the thesis with superior clarity of expression, evidentiary support, originality of thought, and insight.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Do you have to take a lot of extra classes?**

**A:** No, you just take different classes. Each Honors seminar replaces a core General Education class. You only take 3 additional credit hours--one credit for HN 100 or HN 300 Intro to Honors, one credit for HN 400 Research (for your senior Honors thesis), and one credit for HN 485, Honors Thesis.

**Q: Does it cost anything to join the Honors Program?**

**A:** No! The Honors Program actually makes you eligible for more financial resources both on and off campus.

**Q: Are the classes really hard?**

**A:** That's a tough question to answer. Honors seminars dig deeper and help students push themselves further. Our expectations are high, and you will rise to meet the challenge. Honors students have the support of their professors and fellow scholars--you're never in this alone.

**Q: Is the Honors Program going to ruin my GPA?**

**A:** No. Law schools, medical schools, and other graduate programs value applicants who challenge themselves and professionalize themselves through Honors education more highly than applicants with a 4.0 made up of safe, "easy" classes.

**Q: I play a sport. Can I still be in the Honors Program?**

**A:** Absolutely! While we expect Honors students to be active participants in the field trips, social events, and service work, we also understand that students have many responsibilities. Nearly half of MVC's Honors students play a sport.

**Q: What are the other students like?**

**A:** Honors students tend to be interested and interesting, ambitious, friendly, funny, hard-working, and goal-oriented. We have Honors students from Africa, the Americas (north, central, and south), Asia, Australia, and Europe, so we're a pretty international bunch. Some students are from big cities, and others are from the deep country. When you graduate, you'll be able to network with Honors colleagues around the country and the world!

